at retail outlets of Bangalore and Rajkot market are adulterated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the groundnut oil is adulterated with caster-oil and cotton-seed oil which is injurious to health; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As per News item published in the 'Times of India' dated 20th September, 1991 sample surveys conducted at the instance of NDDB indicated that filtered groundnut oil in loose form at retail outlets of Bangalore and Rajkot markets is normally adulterated. Adulterants were castor/cottonseed oil.

Cottonseed oil is an edible oil. Castor oil is an irritant to the gastro-intestinal mucos and its mixing with edible oil is prohibited under the provision of PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) State Governments have been issued instructions to take action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act so as to prevent adulteration of edible oils including groundnut oil.

Import of edible oil from USA

3123. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of importing edible oil from the U.S.A. to meet the present shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to avail of PL-480 for the purpose of stage 3 schemes for public distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Recently, there was an offer of commodity assistance on grant basis from the USAID under the Title III new PL-480 programme offering assistance of 25,000 to 50,000 MTs of vegetable oil for 4 years. The Government has decided that the handling and distribution of this edible oil will be entrusted to the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) and who may auction it at the ports. A proposal has gone to AID, Washington recommending assistance of 25,000 MTs of edible oils under this scheme.

Distribution of Palmolein and Dhara oil

3124. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail sale of Palmolein and Dhara edible oil is being done by three main branches of Super Bazar at Connaught Circus, Patel Nagar and I.N.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether retail sale of these items is not being done in other branches of Super Bazar opened in different localities of Delhi; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether these items of edible oils have been categorised as items of Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During past 4 months, Dhara & Palmolein were sold on monthly average quantity of 96.1 MT & 10,500 litres respectively.

(c) No, Sir. However, the availability of these oils is not adequate for sale through all mini branches regularly. Depending upon their availability in sufficient quantity from M/s. Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation and M/s. Gujarat Coop. Milk Marketing Federation, Super Bazar sells these edible oils regularly to its consumers through its branches situated in different localities of Delhi.